

September 2, 2003

In the matter of RM-10783.

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I am writing the commission in favor and support of RM-10783 to remove morse code requirements from ham licensing in the US.

As the commission already knows, the ITU has voted to remove it and several countries have removed it from their requirements already.

In addition the US Coast Guard and other agencies either have already eliminated it or are in the process, citing other technology does just as well if not better at relaying information.

Morse code is efficient and has a place in communications. I believe it should NOT be a requirement for ham radio rather a mode of choice. With better voice technology, DSP, and digital modes, information can reliably be conveyed around the world on frequencies below 30 MHz.

I am a voice person anyway, morse is not MY mode of choice but it is for others. I also believe it is not needed to have morse proficiency to be able to talk on HF, having proficiency in electronics, loading antennas, knowing propagation etc is more important.

I have no problem keeping it for higher classes like Extra with special or added frequencies, while giving Techs a chance at HF voice, I also have no problem with more or harder questions for theory so we can show proficiency in operating HF phone.

Again I am for eliminating morse code requirements below 30 MHz.

Respectfully Submitted,

Duane Whittingham, N9SSN.